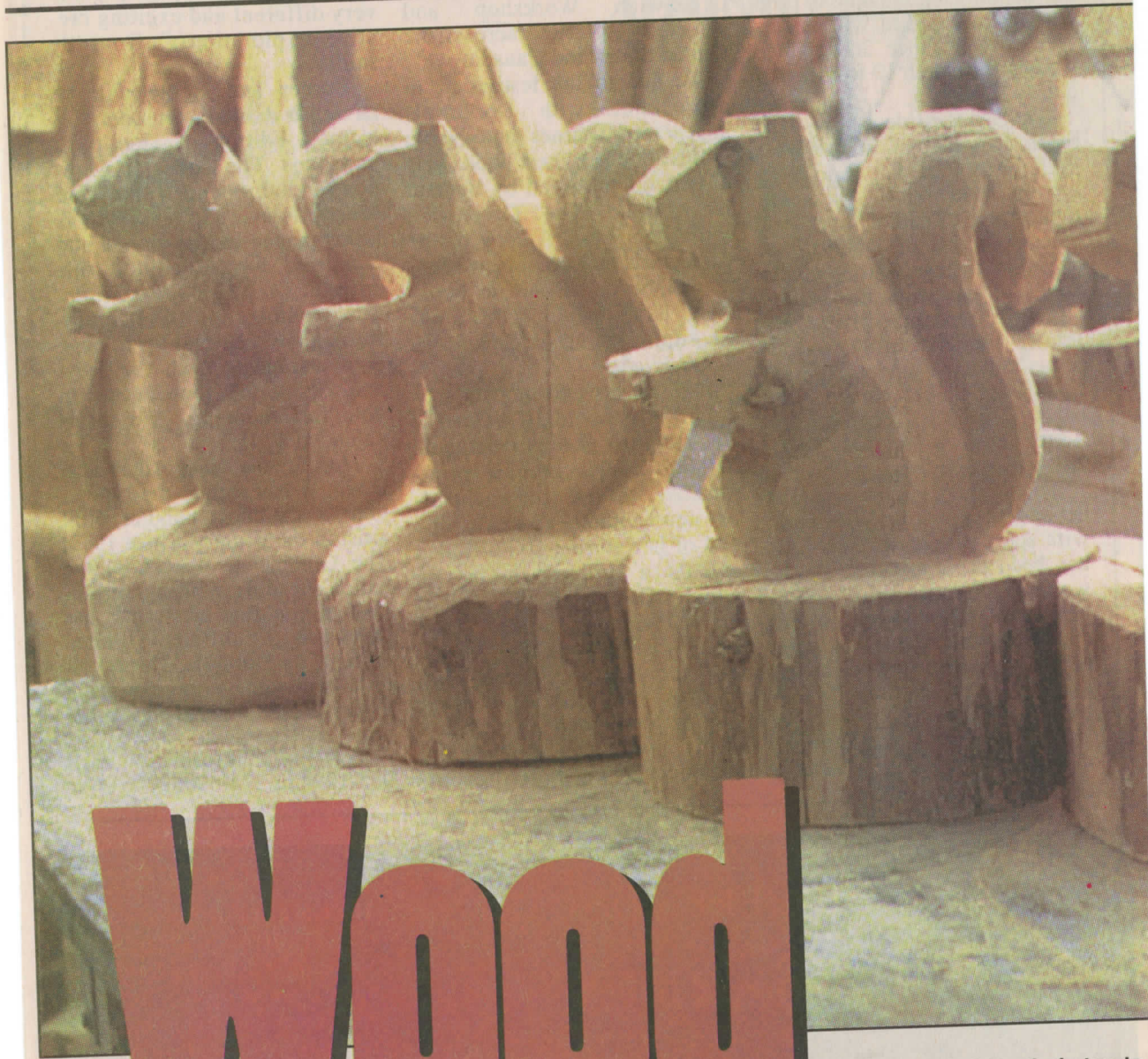


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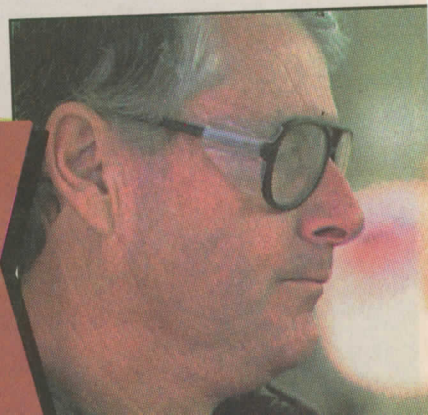
Arts & Ento

The Daily Herald



Wood Work

Although Rand Oertle hates to
rels, he created these squirrels



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Sunday, March 10, 1996



Daily Herald Photo/Jason Olson

carve squirrels because they no longer challenge him. He would rather carve bears.



Springville wood carver to memorialize Tahoe tree

By KAREN HOAG
Special to The Daily Herald

A 400-year old Ponderosa pine tree in California will be memorialized with a sculpture by Springville wood sculptor Rand E. Oertle. The sculptor heads for Tahoe City this spring to create a 25-foot sculpture out of the tree. The pine was once a landmark in the middle of the main road in Tahoe. Oertle's design was chosen from 20 entries by other artisans by The Big Tree Memorial Committee.

The public was in an uproar after CalTran (similar to the Utah Department of Transportation) began to cut the tree down because it was dying from drought and bark beetles. Oertle, who does wood sculpturing in Tahoe three to four months each year, watched the process for four years.

"You have people who were very adamant, something like what happened with Academy Square in Provo," Oertle said. "It was a battle of community against state agencies. People threatened to chain themselves to the tree. They got a court injunction to stop CalTran from cutting down the tree. People have a feeling for it — a sense of history."

Community members and organizations joined forces to fund the monument and site preparation.

"The tree was a landmark, a reference point in town," Oertle said. "People would say, 'Go a quarter mile past the tree' when giving directions."

He allows that a tree in the middle of the road is dangerous, especially with snow on the roads. Eventually the tree was cut down; the site chosen for the memorial sculpture is next to a historical cabin in the center of Tahoe City.

How did he decide on the design?

"They are memorializing a tree, so I'm gonna do a tree," he quipped. He also includes wildlife indigenous to the area. His design features a tall pine tree with a bear cub climbing the trunk, a bald eagle (with a fish in his mouth so it symbolizes the lake) sitting atop a stump plus a stag and fawn standing at the base of the tree. A raccoon will be peeking his head out of a hole in the tree.

Oertle estimates it will take

about three months to carve the sculpture on site. Tourists will be invited to watch the process.

With chainsaw in hand, Oertle will rough out the features of the tree, then shift to die grinders to complete the detail of the sculpture. "I use all power tools ... If I carved with a chisel it would take two years instead of three months," he said.

What he worries about most with the tree sculpture is that "it is four times as tall as I am; I have to have some reference points like where the tree is, where the eagle sits and the deer." The tree is seven feet in diameter at the bottom and four and a half feet at the top. He will be working on scaffolding 25 feet tall. Oertle says he has done taller sculptures but was able to do them on the ground — like a totem pole.

Oertle and wife, Carol, moved to Springville with their seven children from Redding, Calif. four years ago. But his time in Tahoe brings the most orders for sculpturing. He takes the orders there and finishes them in Springville at his workshop on the Frontage Road along I-15. He has sent his wood sculptures all over the U.S. — Oklahoma, New Jersey, California and Chicago as well as around Utah.

Cedar is the favorite wood on which Oertle likes to carve. "It lasts better in weather if it's put outside," he says. Cedar is also lighter weight and has a golden color to which Oertle is partial.

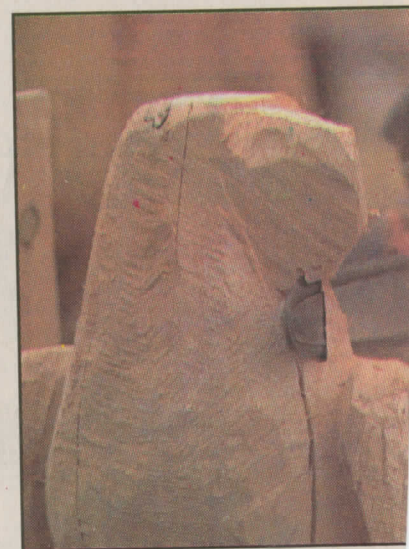
About every 18 months he orders a semi truckload of logs from California or Oregon. They range from 12 inches to 40 inches in diameter.

The first step in wood sculpturing is roughing out the carvings. The next is a drying out period of two to four months. Oertle has at least 20 projects going at once during the wait time.

Cracks appear during the dry out; the sculptor fills the cracks with other wood and sands the piece down. After the four month dry out there is not much danger of more dryness happening.

"Wood picks up and releases moisture. When you wedge wood into the cracks it allows it to flex," he explained.

(See WOOD, Page B2)





Rand Oertle creates all his sculptures with power tools. Here he adds details to a sculpture after roughing it out with a chain saw.



Left: Rand Oertle uses a chain saw to rough out an eagle that he is working on.

"I use all power tools ... If I carved with a chisel it would take two years instead of three months."
Springville sculptor Rand Oertle

Below: This photo shows detail of the face of a sun carving that is part of a series on the seasons that Rand Oertle created.



WOOD:

Utah Art GALLERIES

Compiled by Richard P. Christenson
Phone 237-2177

●OPENING THIS WEEK

●Sunday, Jan. 13

Bountiful/Davis Art Center — Photo Show, through Feb. 17.

●Monday, Jan. 14

U. of U. (Bailey Exhibition Hall, A&A Center) — Exhibition of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill architecture projects, through Feb. 15.

●Friday, Jan. 18

Salt Lake Art Center — Primitive African Sculpture exhibit, through March 24. Recep. Feb. 15, 7-9 p.m.

●Saturday, Jan. 19

NEH Museum of Art (USU, Logan) — Lithography, wood and lead engravings and zinc relief etchings by Jose Guadalupe Posada, through March 10.

Salt Lake Art Center — "Potters and Prints" traveling exhibition, through Feb. 22.

●CONTINUING EXHIBITS

Atrium Gallery (City Library) — Photography exhibit, "Seven Views of Hopi"; also Hopi Kachina Dolls on second floor, through Jan.

Children's Museum of Utah — Japanese Children's art traveling exhibit, through Feb. 4.

Finch Lane Gallery (Art Barn) — "Art in Worship Spaces" exhibition, through Feb. 1.

Gayle Weyher Gallery (167 So. Main) — Focus on works of Maureen O'Hara Ure, through Feb. Hallside Gallery (U. of U. Med. Cntr., AC 113) — Serigraphs and lithographs by Georgianna "Sam" Short, through Jan.

Loge Gallery (PMT) — Paintings by J. Lloyd Stevens and Suzanne Garff Reynolds, through Jan. 26.

Museum of Church History and Art (45 No. West Temple St.) — Paintings by LeConte Stewart, through April 15.

North Light Gallery (Inkley's, 1984 So. State St.) — Photographic exhibit by Ray Daines, through Jan. 16.

Phillips Gallery — Holiday exhibit continues through Jan. 16.

Salt Lake Art Center — (Main Gallery) Art works by Cache Valley artists, through Jan. Photographs by Alexander Rodchenko, through Feb. 15. (Alliance Gallery) Ecclesiastical artifacts from the Cathedral of the Madeleine, through Jan. 15. "Indigenous North American Images" by Michael Arntz, through Jan. 15. Art Center Staff Exhibit, through Feb. 25.

Salt Palace (Rotunda) — Rotating exhibit by ISA members.

Sarah Daft Retirement Home (737 So. 2300 E.) — Art work by 18 Utah artists, through Jan.

Southam Gallery — Paintings by D. Baxter, S. Fleming, W. Geisler, G. Handrahan, R. Hartvigsen, J. Jarvis, S. McGinty, R. Murray, J. Myrup, S. Neilson, S. Peterson, B. Posselli, K. Randle, A. Shaw, G. Smith, D. Turner, K. Wallis, and sculpture by D. Smith, through March.

Tyler Library (Midvale) — Landscapes by Lois Nelson, through Jan.

Utah Museum of Natural History (U. of U.) — Serigraphy by Laura Ruby, through Jan. 27. Also gift show featuring books, stuffed toys, dinosaur models.

Utah State History Museum (300 Rio Grande St.) — An Exhibit of Native American Art from the Institute of American Arts, through Feb. 13.

●OUTSIDE SALT LAKE

Alliance for the Varied Arts (Logan) — "Earth & Sky"; handbuilt pieces by Diana Toth and photographs by Richard Toth, through Jan. 29.

Barnes Bank (Kaysville) — Paintings by Robert B. Day, through Jan.

Braithwaite Gallery (SUSC, Cedar City) — Ansel Adams traveling photography exhibit, through Feb. 6; also watercolors by Douglas Pendleton Bennion, through Feb. 1.

Brigham City Museum-Gallery — Drawings of Arizona and Utah by Albert Tissandier; paintings by Bob Butze, through Jan. 25.

BYU — (B.F. Larsen Gallery) — Annual faculty art show, through Jan. 30.

ARTS

2-6-85 Des News

Utah County

All-state Art Show in Springville will display teens' work

SPRINGVILLE — The annual All-state High School Art Show is scheduled for the Springville Museum of Art Feb. 16 through March 17.

An awards reception will be 7 p.m. Feb. 19 and a gallery-talk forum will be presented at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 20 by show winners.

The show, open to all Utah 10th-, 11th- and 12th-graders through the art department in each high school, offers full-tuition scholarships from major colleges in the state to winners of the art show.

Categories are drawing, painting, sculpture, jewelry, fiber, printmaking, photography, ceramics and commercial art.

Show sponsors include Granite School District, Springville Museum of Art, Utah Arts Council, Utah Art Education Association, Utah Office of Education, Young Masters Program and Utah Pageant of the Arts Guild.

Museum curator Sherrill Sandburg said the show is to foster the arts among Utah teenagers by providing a professional forum for their best work.

"For many high school students, this exhibition will be their first taste of competition, something they will surely face in their fledgling art careers in college and later in the world. We are also interested in having the best examples from this exhibition travel throughout the state so the people of Utah can see the abundant talent we possess."

About 30 two-dimensional works will be selected for the traveling exhibition sponsored by the Utah Arts Council in cooperation with the Springville Museum of Art.

The exhibit will travel during the 1985-86 school year to Utah museums, galleries, libraries and schools. Students who works are selected for the traveling exhibition will receive a \$25 honorarium.

The students are encouraged to place their art work on sale during the art show at the museum.

Awards for the show will include four Master's Awards, cash awards of \$100 and plaques; 10 Awards of Excellence; 30 Awards of Merit, and 32 Traveling Exhibit Awards.

Springville Museum to display its 72-inch bronze 'Orpheus'

SPRINGVILLE — One of the Springville Museum of Art's major acquisitions of 1984 is the 72-inch-high bronze "Orpheus," by Adolph A. Weinman.

The statue will be on display in the museum's central courtyard, on the west wall.

Museum Administrator Vern Swensen said that for years that area of the Spanish courtyard has seemed barren and stark. But the 1917 sculpture will add life.

As a work of art, the piece is among the best in the museum's possession, with Avard Fairbanks' "Rain," which is the centerpiece of the patio.

Weinman for many years was pres-

ident of the National Sculpture Society in New York City.

In 1918, when Utahn Avard Fairbanks studied in New York, Weinman was his mentor. Because of the teacher's influence, Fairbanks returned to Utah well-trained in the classical beaux-arts style of the day.

The work is a unique cast and graced the sculptor's own studio for many years. After Weinman's death, the Graham Gallery on Madison Avenue purchased the piece.

The Springville Museum director saw the work in Graham Gallery and persuaded a California doctor to purchase the piece with the view of its eventual donation to the museum.

●OUTSIDE SALT LAKE

Alliance for the Varied Arts (Logan) — "Earth & Sky"; handbuilt pieces by Diana Toth and photographs by Richard Toth, through Jan. 29.
Barnes Bank (Kaysville) — Paintings by Robert B. Day, through Jan.

Braithwaite Gallery (SUSC, Cedar City) — Ansel Adams traveling photography exhibit, through Feb. 6; also watercolors by Douglas Pendleton Bennion, through Feb. 1.

Brigham City Museum-Gallery — Drawings of Arizona and Utah by Albert Tissandier; paintings by Bob Butze, through Jan. 25.

BYU — (B.F. Larsen Gallery) — Annual faculty art show, through Jan. 30.

College of Eastern Utah (Price) — Lithographs by Fritz Scholder, through Jan.

Eccles Community Art Center (Ogden) — "Ten Utah Painters" traveling exhibit, through Jan.

Kimball Art Center (Park City) — (Main Gallery) Works by Dawna Barton and her daughter Brooke Morrison; also sculpture by Clayton Robbins. (Lower Gallery) — Photography of Sandra Miller, through Jan.

Old Town Gallery (1101 Park Ave., Park City) — Works by C. Matamoros-Maldonado, W. Metcalf, M. Miller, T. Mulder, P. Prosenice, F. Riggs, and others, through Jan.

Snowbird (Cliff Lodge Gallery) — Lithography by Todd Frye, Wayne Kimball, Randy Gibbs, and Russell Hamilton, through Jan.

Springville Museum of Art — Utah '84 Traveling Exhibit, through Feb. 4.

USU (Logan) — (NEH Museum of Art-Upstairs) Selections from USU's permanent art collection, through Jan. 20. (Downstairs) Paintings by members of the West Coast Watercolor Society, through Jan. 13. (Twain Tippetts Exhibit Hall) 1985 Utah Open Photography Exhibition, through Jan. 25.

●CALL FOR ENTRIES

1985 Pacific States Print Exhibition (Feb. 4-Apr. 5, '85, U. of Hawaii, Hilo.) Prints and drawings on paper. Up to \$1500 in awards. Entry fee, \$20. Deadline, Jan. 21. Write U. of Hawaii, Hilo, 1400 Kapiolani St., Hilo, Hawaii 96720, (800) 961-9518.

The Phoenix Biennial 1985 (July 6-Aug. 4, Phoenix Art Museum) — Competitive exhibition for Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah artists. Acceptable mediums: paintings, sculptures, prints, drawings, and photography. Send 10 slides of works before Jan. 16. For entry forms, call (602) 257-1880.

Finch Lane Gallery — Artists desiring to exhibit work in this gallery from Aug. 1985 to Aug. 1986 should submit applications and slides by Feb. 15. For info, call 538-2172.

BYU Fine Arts Exhibition (March 5-30, BYU) — Drawing, sculpture, ceramics, photography, paintings, printmaking, crafts. Entry deadline: Feb. 4. For info, call 378-2881.

Atrium Gallery (SLC Public Library) — Entries being accepted for Sept. through Dec. 1986. Portfolios must be submitted before Feb. 1. For info, call 363-5733, Ext. 242.

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DESERT NEWS